

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bernardus VAN DIEREN Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Appln. No. : 10/598,253 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed : August 22, 2006 Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned
For : DEVICE FOR SOFTENING GRAIN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby submits a copy the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report, dated May 19, 2005, conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/CH2005/000116, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the Examiner cited:

(1) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 917 972 A1, cited as an "X" category document (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified page 7, paragraph 4 – page 11, paragraph 1 and figures 1 and 3 as relevant to claims 1 – 29. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 3,730,845 A, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German Patent Application;

(2) European Patent Application No. 0141907 A1, cited as an "X" category document (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified page 14, line 16 – page 15, line 22 and figure 3 as relevant to claims 1 – 29;

(3) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 642 651 A1, cited as an "X" category document (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified page 3, line 6 – page 5, paragraph 2 and the figures as relevant to claims 1 – 29;

(4) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 517 789 A1, cited as an "X" category document (i.e., particular relevance). The Examiner identified page 12, paragraph 2, claim 1 and figures 2 – 4 as relevant to claims 1 – 29;

(5) European Patent Application No. 0 714 979 A2, cited as an "A" category document (i.e., general state of the art). The Examiner identified the entire document as relevant to claims 1 – 25;

(6) British Patent No. 1,538,177, cited as an "A" category document (i.e., general state of the art). The Examiner identified the entire document as relevant to claims 1 – 25;

(7) European Patent Application No. 0 471 143 A1, cited as an "A" category document (i.e., general state of the art). The Examiner identified column 4, paragraph 1, claim 1 and figure 4 as relevant to claims 1 – 25; and

(8) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 25 23 709 A1, cited as an "A" category document (i.e., general state of the art). The Examiner identified page 8, paragraph 4, claim 1, and figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 – 29. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants identify U.S. Patent No. 4,048,019 A, which is

identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German Patent Application.

The following documents were cited in an International Preliminary Report on Patentability, dated June 21, 2006, conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/CH2005/000116, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the Examiner cited:

- (9) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 917 972 A1, cited above as item (1);
- (10) European Patent Application No. 0141907 A1, cited above as item (2);
- (11) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 642 651 A1, cited above as item (3); and
- (12) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 1 517 789 A1, cited above as item (4).

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration be returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. Additionally, an English-language translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, copies of the International Search Report and the International Preliminary

Examination Report have previously been submitted and are not being submitted herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant notes that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if a first action on the merits has mailed prior to the filing date of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes Commissioner to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernardus VAN DIEREN

Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

February 23, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

FORM PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P30150		Application No. 10/598,253	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Bernardus VAN DIEREN			
				Filing Date August 22, 2006		Group Not Yet Assigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		3 7 3 0 8 4 5	05/01/73	SCHULTZ			
		4 0 4 8 0 1 9	09/13/77	NUMBERGER			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
		1 9 1 7 9 7 2	11/06/69	GERMANY			
		0 1 4 1 9 0 7	05/22/85	E.P.O.			
		1 6 4 2 6 5 1	10/26/72	GERMANY			
		1 5 1 7 7 8 9	12/11/69	GERMANY			
		0 7 1 4 9 7 9	06/05/96	E.P.O.			
		1 5 3 8 1 7 7	01/17/79	GREAT BRITAIN			
		0 4 7 1 1 4 3	02/19/92	E.P.O.			
		2 5 2 3 7 0 9	12/02/76	GERMANY			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED					
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							